

Managing Behavior...Positively



Columbia Elementary is Making it Happen!



WE ARE Columbia Elementary, part of the Rochester Community School Corporation. Our school is a PK-2 elementary with about 445 students. Our corporation has about 1819 students and 4 schools. We are located in Rochester, IN (Pop. 6,204)

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES are comprised of 91% White, 5 % Hispanic, 3% Multiracial and 1% Black. We have over half of our students on free or reduced lunch. We have 13 EL students.

OUR TEACHERS consist of 21 classroom teachers, 3 special needs teachers, 5 specials teachers, 3 Title I teachers and numerous instructional assistants that work collaboratively with our staff and students.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

Our Life Skills class has begun using strategies, materials, and the principles from a curriculum developed by HANDS in Autism. This model is founded on the belief that training should focus on: individual strengths; comprehensive training; data driven decision making; blended evidence-based intervention strategies; and hands on practice, coaching, and mentoring.

At Columbia, we have focused on setting up the environment for student's success, teaching skills that are incompatible with negative behaviors, and providing consequences for problem behaviors.

Using the HANDS model created a more positive learning environment and improved the school culture at Columbia. Our teachers consistently use the HANDS model, Reinforcer Checklists, and handouts from the HANDS in Autism program Professional Development and trainings.

OUR STEPS

- Our Life Skills teacher attended the official HANDS training in Bloomington.
- Dr. Sweizy introduced the model at Columbia through a Professional Development presentation.
- We began implementing the strategies with the intent to become a demonstration site for the district.
- HANDS made monthly visits to consult, instruct, and assist.
- Monthly phone webinars were conducted for questions, concerns, and great support.
- Our staff visited schools in other districts who have fully implemented the program.
- Goal--- Implement the model district-wide

IN OUR OWN WORDS

Chrissy Merrill, our Primary Life Skills teacher commented, "This model and the support from Dr. Sweizy's team have given me the tools I needed to help my students be successful."

Jason Snyder, principal- "I can't believe the changes I've seen in the students attitudes-they have become so independent in following their schedules and I'm seeing fewer negative behaviors."

We have the skills to manage problem behaviors in positive ways.

For more information about our school or corporation, email: Chrissy Merrill (chrissy.merrill@zebras.net) Jason Snyder (jason.snyder@zebras.net) or visit our website at www.zebras.net -Choose Columbia Primary